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REPORTS KONEV COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF CZECH ARMED FORCES

Following Poland and Bulgaria, it is now Czechoslovakia's turn to get a Soviet marshal; after the "Pole" Rokossovskiy and the "Bulgarian" Panchev, Konev is the third Soviet marshal to be placed by Moscow at the head of a Satellite army.

Marshal Konev arrived in Prague a month ago to conduct lengthy talks of an advisory nature with the Czech ministers and military leaders. During this time he lived at the Soviet Embassy. Upon conclusion of the deliberations, Konev went to Karlovy Vary. The guests had been evacuated from this world-famous resort several weeks earlier, and the hotels and the villas had been thoroughly restored and renovated. Even before Konev's arrival, about 1,000 Soviet officers and office personnel had come to Karlovy Vary. The largest resort hotel was equipped as a headquarters, and Konev immediately took over the leadership there. At present 400-500 officers are working in the building.

Konev's appointment as commander-in-chief of the Czechoslovak armed forces has not yet been announced officially, but there is open talk about the new man in Prague. Konev is undeniably the most popular of the Soviet "high brass" in Prague,

Unlike the case in Poland, Konev is not simultaneously taking over the portfolio of the Minister of War along with the military post. The present Minister of War, Cepicka, Gottwald's son-in-law, will remain in that position.

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